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**FRENCH CABINET CRISIS IN SIXTH DAY**

- I. Odds reported somewhat against investiture of Premier-designate Antoine Pinay (Independent) because of announced opposition MRP executive.
  - A. He had intended to present cabinet to Assembly on Friday, 11 Feb.
  - B. May (throw in sponge) sooner, since reluctant to make presentation unless he is convinced of winning investiture.
- II. Popular Republicans are key party in Assembly.
  - A. Executive Committee, in 9 Feb meeting, agreed (27 to 23) not to participate in Pinay Government.
  - B. Majority of MRP rank-and-file approve this stand.
  - C. However, Bidault and R. Schuman favor participation and MRP parliamentary bloc has yet to make final decision.
- III. Pinay's position:
  - A. He would push Paris Accords in Council of Republic. Expects R. Schuman (ex-Premier, strong European integrationist) as Foreign Minister.
  - B. He has already started exploratory talks with Tunisians--personal friend of Tunisian premier.
  - C.  Would probably be inclined to work with Dien regime in South Vietnam. However, would not immediately repudiate Sainteny mission.
  - D. On domestic scene, he would probably take steps to lighten tax burden of farmers, artisans and small shopkeepers.

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**IV. If Pinay rejected, these men probably next in line:**

**A. First, Pierre Pflimlin (MRP).**

1. Would have about same conservative support as Pinay.
2. Chances depend on Socialist support or, at least, neutrality, as well as willingness of Conservatives to forgive MRP for not backing Pinay.

**B. Next, Socialist leader Christian Pineau.**

1. He toying with idea of heading left-center coalition (based on Socialists, MRP and Radicals).

**C. Then, Edgar Faure (Radical Socialist).**

1. Would have good chance of MRP support, as well as aid from prior Mendes-France coalition.

**V. Issues before next government include:**

**A. North African problems--where reaction to Mendes' fall unfavorable.**

1. Moroccan disorders, which increased during pre-fall debate, probably will continue throughout crisis.
2. Tunisians keenly disappointed, but take hope from Pinay's promise that negotiations will resume.
3. Algerian "Colon" will pressure new government to drop recently announced reforms.

**B. Approval of Paris Accords--this still expected in Council of Republic:**

1. Foreign Ministry spokesman expects any foreseeable candidate for premiership to push Accords in Council.
2. However, 11 March Council deadline could be postponed.

3. Danger of return of bills to Assembly would be enhanced by delay. ERP would now back Accords in Assembly, however.

**VI. German position on Accords.**

**A. Adenauer's initial reaction deep apprehension.**

1. Chancellor fears prolonged French crisis would persuade his coalition to slow reaction on Accords.
2. However, Malenkov's "resignation" will probably aid Chancellor in quashing "go slow" tendencies.

**B. Final Bundestag vote of approval appears highly probable; vote scheduled 26 Feb.**

1. Final approval by Bundesrat expected in March.